

The Pupil Premium at Aston Tower

What is the pupil premium?

The pupil premium is a financial grant received by the school for any child who:

- Has been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last six years
- Has been 'looked after' by a local authority
- Was adopted from care on or after 30 December 2005, or left care under either a special guardianship order or child arrangements order.

Schools are expected to use this funding to ensure the standards the above groups of children achieve are as high as other children.

How much has Aston Tower received?

During this academic year, Aston Tower expects to receive £306,240

In the previous years, we received:

2014/15- £439, 947

2013/14- £241, 468

A very high number of our pupils are eligible for the pupil premium. Data shows that 75% of our pupils receive it which is an increase of 15% in the last year. We are in the highest percentile of schools in the country due to high level of economic deprivation. The school with the highest level of eligibility has only 14% more children on free school meals than us. Eligibility is rising the most amongst our youngest children. In Key Stage 1, almost every children is eligible for the pupil premium.

How did we spend last year's amount and why?

In Year 2, a cohort with very high levels of eligible pupils (98%), we employed an extra teacher to ensure that the class was taught for English and mathematics in three groups of twenty, rather than in two classes of thirty. An additional teaching assistant was also employed to promote progress. This cohort experienced extremely high levels of pupil turnover with 62% of pupils joining the cohort during the key stage from either other schools or from abroad.

Pupil's whose reading skills needed to be improved in Years 3 and 4 also benefited from pupil premium funding. Children were selected to read and have support from an experienced teacher who not only helped develop their phonics (letters and sounds) skills, but their confidence and general enjoyment of reading.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 benefitted greatly from the pupil premium. Funding enabled them to be taught in small groups of approximately 20 children to help ensure they learn the vital English and mathematics skills needed for secondary school. More able pupils were targeted to receive support to help them achieve a Level 6 grade in mathematics partly through being taught by a specialist teacher in that subject. Some of the pupils who were working to reach the expected grade of Level 4, received extra tuition in their writing and mathematics and a small group, mostly fairly recent arrivals from other countries enjoyed phonics lessons with an experienced teacher.

Was also employed a learning mentor to support the personal development of a number of children who have recently joined us from other schools but who were in danger of exclusion. They joined our school because of their significant behavioural problems.

The attendance of a number of pupils missing school on the regular basis was improved through purchasing attendance resources from Walsall Local Authority whose staff visited homes of such children and investigated reason for absence with parents.

What we spent our money on	How much we spent
Extra teaching staff	£288,131
Extra teaching assistant support	£49,335
Tuition for children in Y6	£9,629
Extra support for more able pupils	£9,081
Reading interventions	£14,460
Learning Mentor	£23,640
Improving attendance	£336

What difference has it made to our pupils' achievements during 2014/15?

By the end of Year 2, eligible pupils performed well. Despite an exceptionally high number of pupils arriving and leaving the school within this cohort since September 2013 (62% of the cohort joined us of which only 8% were working at age-related expectations and 35% of new pupils were on the P scales (a pre-national curriculum measure) attainment of eligible pupils was within the range expected when compared to non-eligible pupils nationally. Eligible pupils made good progress during the year, especially in reading and writing at (4.9 and 4.3 points of progress respectively).

By the end of Year 6, eligible pupils achieved very well in many cases. In terms of making either expected or more than expected progress, in at least half of the measures, our pupils' progress was at rates significantly faster than non-disadvantaged pupils nationally with reading and writing being strengths. In terms of the standards that they reached in their Year 6 SATs tests, our pupils reached levels much higher than eligible pupils nationally and very close to the national averages for non-disadvantaged children. Our internal Year 5 tests shows that disadvantaged pupils in this pre-SATs year were on track, in June 2015, to reach similar levels to the previous cohorts but from lower starting points.

Attendance of pupil premium children has risen to 94.8%

How will we spend this year's amount and why?

We will continue with a similar approach during 2014/15 to continue to meet our children needs. This will include:

- Extra teachers so that our Year 2, 4, 3, 5 and 6 pupil can continue to work in three groups, rather than two classes, each morning for reading, writing and mathematics.

- Additional teaching assistant support in the Reception classroom to develop children language skills which in English, is very limited.
- Reading support for pupils in Years 3 and 4.
- Additional teaching across Key Stage 1 where we have a very high number of pupils eligible for pupil premium.
- Small group support for a number of eligible pupils from Eastern Europe. The focus of this short-term intervention is to develop their English language skills to help them access the curriculum and make accelerated progress.
- Additional group teaching for eligible pupils in Key Stage 1 with limited phonics skills.
- Additional group teaching for more able children in Years 5 and 6.
- Tuition for some pupils in Year 6 in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Purchasing support to promote good attendance from Walsall LA.
- A mentor to support a small group of pupils who need help to manage their own behaviour.

What we will spend our money on	How much we will spend
Extra teaching staff	£253,273
Extra teaching assistant support	£21,091
Tuition for children in Y6	£5,979
Extra support for more able pupils	£6,546
Reading interventions	£9,309
KS1 interventions and Phonics	£14,767
Improving attendance	£336